

MAINE FARMER

AND JOURNAL OF THE USEFUL ARTS.

BY WILLIAM NOYES & CO.]

"Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man."

[E. HOLMES, Editor.]

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The Maine Farmer

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THE FARMER.

WINTHROP, FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 4, 1836.

Good Cattle should not be cheap---and cheap Cattle should not be Good.

Every farmer will acknowledge the truth of the first part of the above proposition, but alas for Maine! all of her farmers do not practice upon the precept. They seem rather to act in accordance with the last part, and prosper accordingly. It has been a mistaken notion with many, who could do better than they do, that it is better to raise up a large number of poor kind of cattle for the market, and sell them at a small price, than it would be to put what these same "lean kine" cost, both in care and food, into a few first rate cattle, and sell them for a sum double in amount, to what they received for the haggard regiment of hoofs and horns, which some turn off yearly. These same individuals are often great stock raisers and dealers, and at the same time, show them, or tell them of a Bull worth 2 or 300 dollars, and they will lift up their hands in horror at the extravagance, and call it all folly and nonsense, &c., &c., &c. This kind of feeling not only injures those who possess it, but is also a real injury to the community, because it is a barrier to the march of improvement. We will suppose that a spirited individual, who may perhaps be not very well able to incur the expense, purchases one of the improved breed of cattle to raise the character of his own breed, and also that of his neighbor's, relying on their support for indemnifying him in the enterprise. What is the result? If his neighbors are of the class which we have just described, and we will leave it to you, loving reader, if you have not some of this description, instead of giving him aid as they very easily could, ten chances to one they will ridicule the animal and the enterprise and throw obstacle in the way, and blame the individual for trying "to do something great." This kind of management has been practiced in more than one neighborhood, to our certain knowledge; & if the person who has not been spirited enough to break through the trammels of prejudice, and carry out his project by his own unaided energy, he must inevitably fail of success, and suffer a loss. Now if these same people would stop and consider for a moment, or just calculate the expense of raising, we will say an ordinary pair of steers, and of raising an extra pair—note down the difference. Then put them both into the market, and note down the difference in price, they would soon see on which side the advantage is.

It costs no more care—no more labor—no more

steps to raise the good pair, than it does the mean pair. If they eat more, they will do more labor by way of offset, and they are always saleable while the ordinary ones are oftentimes a drug. Many, who like to see and to have good cattle, nevertheless, are unwilling that the improved breeds should be held so high in value, and would fain bring them down to a level in price to the common, and unimproved kinds of breeds. Now it is not right that they should be put on an equality; for various reasons. In the first place, they should command a higher price, because they are actually, in every respect, worth more, and secondly, every one will, as a matter of course, pay more attention, and consequently keep up the improvement longer on any thing which has cost much, than he would upon a thing that is thought to be of not much value. There will also be more exertion to keep the actual value up, and at last the spread of the improvement will be effected. Had not Livingston sold his Merino Bucks at \$3000 a piece, think you the attention of people would have been turned to them? If he had given them away, it is probable that we should soon have heard no more of the breed, for it is a fault of our nature's that we despise what we can get the easiest. So it would be with the improved breeds of cattle, if they could be afforded, or were sold at the low prices at which ordinary cattle are—the interest, the pains, and the care which is now felt and taken in them would cease, and they would degenerate because of the neglect, and finally become extinct. For these reasons, we would repeat the assertion, that *good cattle should never be cheap, and cheap cattle should never be good.*

Patents.

The prolific brains of the Americans, are fast filling up the Patent Office with all manner of combinations. Should they continue twenty years longer, going on in the same increasing ratio that they have for twenty years past, it will be necessary to have a building as large as the Capitol itself, to hold the models of the innumerable machines which may be "invented, constructed, made and applied to use." According to the list of the patents issued during the past year, there have been not less than 27 new thrashing machines patented—20 new churns—18 washing machines, all no doubt, the newest and best, and most labor saving of any in the world. We propose publishing the whole list soon.

Cheap Cosmetic.

What's a Cosmetic? Why a cosmetic you must know, is some sort of a preparation to put upon the face, in order to make a smooth and healthy state of the skin. In reality, clean soap suds are an excellent cosmetic, a genuine beautifier of the countenance, provided you have any beauty to begin with.

But this is too common, and of course you will find some who seek preparations of a different character, from "Eau de Cologne," up, up, up to the grand Imperial double and twisted perfume of Allan Fad Laddeen Mahommed's distilled essence of Rain-bows. Now as such things are beyond the reach of us farmers, and our daughters, and as some

of us may occasionally stand in need of something of the kind to smooth our countenances, we take the liberty of giving you the following recipe of a cosmetic made from Indian meal. We know from long experience, this article is good for the inside of the face, and we dare say it will answer a good service outside, at any rate you can try it.

Put upon the fire a pint of soft water; when it boils, stir in as much fine corn meal as will make it the consistency of paste—when cooling add a spoonful of honey and a little rose water, though these latter articles are not absolutely necessary. Use this paste every time you wash yourselves, say twice a day at least. It will render the skin more healthy and beautiful, than the most costly wash you can buy in any city in Christendom.

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

Worms in Sheeps' Heads.

This is rather early in the season to be sure, to begin to take off pelts, but so it is, and who can help it. I lost one about the 12th inst. and I think it died *almost* of the worm or maggot in the head. In the first place he laid down and could not get up again; however I gave him some medicine and he revived again: but in a few days he got down again and could not stand, so I went into the house to get a knife to slay him, and when I came out he was chewing the cud. Upon opening his head I found a swarm of those vermin which seemed to "boil like a pot." The cavity in the "bump" directly above the eye was stowed full—some were as large as a good sized bean and "chinked up" with some not larger than a common "cheese skipper." Now if it is not the worm that occasions death, for conscience sake, tell us what it is, for it is a very peculiar disease, and the only one with which they seem to die without a struggle. And I should also like to know what effect they have upon the system of the sheep that it produces death; whether it affects the brain and makes them forget to breathe, for I have actually seen them when they looked as if they died chewing their cud. And finally, what will cure them. If any one can tell this, I should be glad, and I think it would much oblige the greater part of us farmers. ALBERT.

Hallowell, 1836.

N. B. Said sheep was carefully examined, and the lungs and every other part appeared to be in good health. The noses of the flock were well tarred after shearing, and tar was kept in the trough where they were salted, and tarred again in the fall.

For the Maine Farmer.

Potatoes for Fattening Hogs.

MR. HOLMES:—Your extracts from that excellent publication, called the Genesee Farmer, have been by me approved highly. Perhaps too much cannot be said in favor of that paper, and your extracts are useful generally. But I perceive an extract from it in your No. 3 of the present vol. dated at Hounsfield, January 5th, 1836, signed H. Merrill. His first remark that "merchantable grain given to swine to fatten them is not profitable," I have no

objection to. But he then proceeds to show the worth of potatoes to fatten pork, having, as he says, never seen any account exhibiting their actual worth for that purpose. He then goes on to state his number of hogs fatted, their worth, &c. Next he gives a detailed account of what he fed them with, and it is as follows:

500 bushels of Potatoes	\$55.73
45 bushels of Peas	22.50
Salt, sulphur and charcoal	1.37
2 cords of wood for steaming	1.50
Slaughtering	3.00

All footed at the exact price his pork brought him in the market, to wit: \$160, 68.

As he used 45 bushels of peas, in fattening his swine with his potatoes, if he has found out the worth of potatoes, even steamed, for making pork, must use a different arithmetic from what we do in Maine. How does he know but the peas were worth double what he gave for them for the purpose? and the potatoes far less? In fact, his calculations may show the value of all his ingredients he fed with, even sulphur and charcoal—but it cannot show what he set out to make appear, the worth of potatoes in fattening pork. I believe peas are worth much more than they have generally been apprehended to be for the purpose of fattening swine. I make these remarks lest some should think potatoes more valuable than they are for fattening creatures. They answer well to carry a swine or a beef creature up to a certain pitch, or degree, or to begin with. If boiled or steamed they carry the creature higher in flesh than if given raw. But if given after they have done their best, it is like trying to raise a weight with a lever after you have obtained its whole strength. To illustrate my ideas, let any one cease giving potatoes when they are not rich enough to carry forward the fattening process higher; and then give peas, meal or any richer keep the animal becomes partly fat and nearly fit for slaughter. Now cease the rich keep and give him as many potatoes as he will eat, and he will go back to what the potatoes did for him, or potatoe flesh. I would not discourage farmers from raising potatoes, because they answer well for store swine and aid much in the fattening process, until you have the whole they can do, and then a few bushels of peas, meal, corn, &c. will complete the process. But I had rather have a bushel of apples than one of potatoes for me to make meat with—neither will fat an animal as I like to see one fatted. If I have mistook the views of your New York man he will put me right.

A FRIEND TO ALL KIND OF ROOTS.

Winthrop, Feb. 17, 1836.

For the Maine Farmer.

THOUGHTS ON SHEEP.

Breeds—Probable Effects of Crossing—Shape—Wool—Objects of the Shepherds of Maine in keeping Sheep—Ability of Maine to sustain Flocks.

MR. HOLMES:—The above subjects having occupied in a good degree my time and study for nearly thirty years, I have thought that I might say something that would be of service to the owners of flocks. I assume it as a fact that in the State of Maine wool is the great object in the culture of Sheep and will continue to be. The merino yields the greatest quantity of wool according to the weight of its carcase, and of a better quality than any other breed that I have ever kept. By merino I include also the Saxon breed, which is nothing more than the merino carried to Saxony and modelled by them for a number of generations. Maine possesses greater advantages for the raising of wool

than most States in the Union. She has mountains for pasture well watered with running water; abundance of forage roots, &c. may be easily raised for winter keeping. Hence it is very important that she possesses the breed which is best adapted to the soil and climate, and also understands their management in the best possible manner. I believe the access of air to the skin to be essential to health of sheep, and I am certain that a thick short woolled merino sheep—humped backed—thin breasted—flat ribbed and slabsided is not hardy enough to withstand our long and cold winters, unless well sheltered, and fed in the best manner.—That they never will be profitable in the hands of our ordinary farmers, without a great revolution in their habits and conduct as shepherds. There are breeds that would be healthy and hardy enough to withstand the rigor of our winters with common keeping, but they are destitute of the merino fleece, and therefore not profitable. The merino are bad nurses—small in the udder—very docile, and more subject to that fatal disease, the rot, than many other breeds.

There are a few breeders who have endeavored to shape their merinos, and give them greater hardiness, and have in some degree succeeded. To increase the weight of wool to the weight of carcase, they have bred from those that have the largest staple. In order to ensure an ability to bear our seasons, they have bred from those that had straight backs, round ribs, wide breasts, and have thereby secured their object in some good degree. But after all they lack in many points. They cannot increase their milking quality to any great degree. It is important in this country to have sheep quiet in regard to fences—the merino have this quality more than any other that I am acquainted with. They are more completely covered with wool, yielding of course more in proportion to the weight of the body than any other sheep that I am acquainted with.

Several breeds have been introduced among us as substitutes for the merino which I will now mention. The Bakewell—a well known breed from England—improved by the celebrated Bakewell for the purposes of mutton. I think that they are not to be recommended to our wool growers who wish for wool only, whether we consider quality or weight of fleece to the carcase. There have been a few importations of some other English coarse wool breeds. These are objectionable on account of their unruly habits in regard to fences, as also the quality of their wool, being fit only for worsted, which are not as yet manufactured much in this country.

There has been imported during the last year, direct from England, by Charles Vaughan, Esq. of Hallowell, sheep of the pure South Down breed, which promise to be an excellent breed to cross the merino with. It is my opinion that this breed have been possessed on the sea shore of this State, at Bristol, Pemaquid and thereabouts more or less pure for a number of years. They may be known by their grey faces and legs. This race are bred upon the downs of England, and exposed to the greatest rigors of their climate, die or live. None but the hardiest could have lived and kept up the breed for so long a time. They are therefore of the most hardy race. The wool is nearly equal to what is called half blood merino.

They are good breeders, and if well kept, will rear their lambs during any part of the winter season—fleece averages three pounds with ordinary keeping—fatten easily, and are good mutton. Now I ask what would be the effect of a cross of a well

shaped ram of the merino breed, with fine wool and a heavy fleece upon ewes of that breed for about two crosses? Would they produce the very breed which we need—preserve the weight and quality of the merino fleece, and possess in a good degree the hardiness of the South Downs? Will others, with me, try the experiment, and let the world know how they succeed, through your paper or some other. I feel the importance of sheep culture in this State. It will probably bring the farmers more cash than any thing else which he can raise on his farm; and when a just policy is pursued, of encouraging manufactures within this State, the wool will be manufactured within our State, on our now useless waterfalls at the Shepherd's door. We shall then have our cloth without paying three profits, viz: to get it to the manufacturers in Massachusetts or elsewhere to be manufactured into cloth—then the bringing it back with a profit to the manufacturer and the commission to the retailer—and then worn out on our own backs. To breed to the best advantage, and have the offspring in the greatest perfection, the female ought to be of a larger breed than the male. In that case they have abundant room before they come into the world, are abundantly supplied with milk after they come into the world. The above observations hold good through all nature, and ought to be known to every breeder. The size of a race of sheep is of little consequence to the breeder, for I hold that all animals eat (all other things being equal) exactly in proportion to their size. To increase the size by the male is a work of many generations, and when it can be done by the female it ought to be preferred for the reasons above mentioned.

The quality of the wool is most likely to follow the mode in a great degree, as also the shape.—Hence four crosses of the merino are found to give as good wool if it be a cross on a short woolled breed, as the original stock of merino. It is very important in crossing that the male be perfect in shape, and also what you want as it regards quantity and quality of his wool; and whether you cross on the other breeds, or attempt to raise the pure merino, most attention must be paid to the shape of the sire—also avoid breeding by incest as much as possible. But you must not rely solely on a good sire, but examine the breed for many generations back, for the offspring is oftentimes most likely to take after the grandsire or grand dam than after the immediate sire or dam.

A black sheep and a white ram will most generally produce a white lamb, but that lamb will most generally produce black lambs, though connected with a white ram. Whatever animals we breed we must remember that there is a propensity in nature to deteriorate; hence we must always breed from the best, and take the best of care too if we would expect to improve. A WOOL GROWER.

Winthrop, March, 1836.

Report of the Cor. Sec'y of the Penobscot AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The following Report of the Corresponding Secretary of the Penobscot Agricultural Society, was read at the last meeting of the Society, and ordered to be published in the Mechanic and Farmer, and placed on file.

To ASEP R. NICHOLS, Secretary of State:

In compliance with the Laws of the State, and bye-laws of the Penobscot Agricultural Society, I make the following Report of the past operations, present condition and future prospects of the Society.

This Society was incorporated June 18, 1833, under an Act of Legislature, approved Feb. 18, of same year. No Cattle Show and Exhibition were

holden that year, consequently no draft made upon the State Treasurer for money appropriated to the encouragement of Agriculture; but, notwithstanding we held no Show, several meetings were holden, and within the year two public Addresses, were delivered. Much individual labor was performed by the officers and friends of the Society with a view of keeping the foundation of the Society deep and strong.

From the day of our organization we looked far into the future for the full result of our labors;—we knew it would require much labor, and take long time before our Society could attain that position and exert that influence upon our farms and in our mechanic shops, which we from the beginning intended it should do;—we estimated the prejudices that were to be corrected,—the habitual blindness to be enlightened,—the sleeping energies to be awakened, and we thought something too, of the vast resources to be developed;—we scarcely underrated any thing but our resources—they are without end.

The field which this Society occupies is a broad one—too broad to be reduced to a high state of cultivation at once, but not too wide to allow us to perceive the advances we make, and we trust not so large as to oblige us in the end to leave *one furrow* unturned.

In October, 1834, the Society held a Cattle Show and Exhibition and awarded in premiums something more than the amount received that year from the State. In that Exhibition we were disappointed,—we expected to witness but little interest and a lean exhibition, but the Society was cheered and encouraged by a respectable show, and the exhibited of a deep and general interest in the welfare of the Society and in the success of its undertaking.

At our Show and Exhibition in September last, the Society offered in premiums two hundred dollars, which were about equally distributed between Stock, Crops and Manufactures, but owing to the heavy rains which fell on that day the entry and exhibition of stock was very limited, compared with our anticipations, which undoubtedly would have been realized if the weather had been propitious.

There was a respectable exhibition of specimens in manufactures,—in some departments great skill was displayed in workmanship, and important and useful ends attained by improvements. The entries of crops for premiums were more numerous than the year preceeding, but the terms requiring by law and regulations of the Society were not generally complied with, and consequently premiums not awarded.

We have found it very difficult to obtain statements from those who are awarded premiums, in due form, and sufficiently exact to answer the requisitions of law, and this year we found it impracticable to get any, in season, of sufficient importance to deserve a place in the archives of the State. This difficulty grows out of the infancy of the Society, and a want of a general understanding of what the law requires; we think that another year we may be able to obtain such statements as the law contemplates in season to be forwarded according to law, and without operating against any of the interests of the society.

It will be seen by the accompanying report of expenditures, that a few dollars less than the amount received from the State was the past year awarded in premiums;—this was not the intention of the Society, but was occasioned by the unfavorable weather on the day of Show, and the consequent diminution of entries for premiums.

In reviewing the short history of our society, we see much to encourage us to persevere in the future. The efforts which have been made by this Society have been very successful;—the farmer begins to enquire whether he cannot produce as much on one acre as he has done in years past on three, and whether he may not cultivate three as easily as he has heretofore tilled one;—there are those among us, those who answer yes, to these inquiries, and who have tested and proved the truth of their response;—many who have spent the best part of their life in planting seed and nursing the blade of precarious crops;—who were well nigh giving over in despair, and almost ready to go *West* to die of fever, ague and poverty, have been touched by the wand of agricultural inquiry and the scales have fallen from their eyes and they see, the first time for many years, that after all, they

live in a land of milk and honey,—and their hopes revive, their families, who were already shivering from fear of fever and ague, are fed, and their mortgages are being redeemed;—there has been much enquiry excited, and through enquiry, much valuable, practical knowledge obtained;—we have seen enough already to satisfy us that our labors are abundantly rewarded, and that the appropriations of the State to the encouragement of *united* associations is most wisely made—it is seed sown that will yield a most abundant harvest, whereof all our citizens will gather.

From the New York Farmer.

Management of Pumps in severe frosty weather.

MR. MINOR:—As many of your readers, like myself, may have experienced much inconvenience from the freezing up of their pumps in winter, and incurred an additional expense in the purchase of water for domestic purposes, I shall state for your and their information the simple plan I have hitherto adopted with my pump to prevent its freezing: which, with a very little extra trouble of twice drawing the boxes yearly, insures the use of the pump, and consequently of the water, in the severest weather.

First, I take out the spear with the upper box, then draw out the lower box, or get some one to do it: at or near the centre of the clapper of the lower box I bore a hole with a gimblet, about the size of a penny nail, (this hole is to suffer the pump to *lose the water* in 5 or 6 minutes after each using,) this done, I place the boxes in the pump as before; and by turning into it about two gallons of water* (all at once) the pump may be *set*, as it is called, by a common well known operation of working the handle half a minute, with very *short and quick* strokes. When a supply of water is obtained for present purposes an additional two or three gallons must be saved and kept from freezing to *fetch* the pump with, whenever a fresh supply of water is again wanted. The hole through the clapper of the lower box, as before observed, allowing the pump to *lose the water* in 5 or 6 minutes after each using, leaves all that part of the pump above the surface of the water in the well empty; consequently there will be no water left above the box to freeze.

The forgoing has been the practice with my pump, and I derive great benefit from it. I last winter neglected the precaution till too late, and had to buy water about five months in consequence. The little trouble here pointed out, has no proportion to the inconvenience arising out of the pump's freezing up; incurring the expense of having to buy water, or to send for it a great distance. The pump best suited for winter use, and indeed for all domestic purposes, is the common ship pump, which admits of easily putting the water in at the top, at each operation.

In the spring of the year, when there is nothing further to fear from the frost, draw the boxes again, and screw a short iron screw into the hole of the lower box clapper, which will cause the pump to *keep water*, until the precaution against freezing again becomes necessary on the approach of winter. If the upper box should work rather tight, the clapper of that may be perforated also.

Street pumps, however exposed, may also be made equally useful, without housing in, or stuffing around with straw, (which is more frequently inefficient than otherwise) by adopting the plan of having the nozzle or exit spout to consist of a stop-cock; and to have a stuffing box or air-tight valve fitted on the pump rod, above the stop-cock, which being put in motion to exhaust the air, will cause the water to rise up into the vacuum, and become subservient to the water boxes. The lower, and if necessary the upper box clappers, to be perforated as in the common out house or yard pump, as before recommended.

If you think these hints worth your notice, please insert them in the Mechanic's Magazine, and you may perhaps hear again from W. REYNOLDS.
St. John's, New Brunswick, Dec. 14, 1835.

* Or as much as may be necessary to cover the spear box.

From the Genesee Farmer.

Espaliers.

Espaliers are fruit trees, the branches of which are trained upon a lattice of wood work or trellis, extended on opposite sides from the main stem so

as to point in two directions only. They thus in external appearance resemble hedges. They are commonly placed along the borders of the principal divisions of gardens, and serve the double purpose of a shelter to such plants as need it, and of producing fruit without occupying much ground. From their beauty and novelty, they contribute much to the pleasing appearance of a garden, and serve to screen the least ornamental parts from the sight of persons in the walks. As they should not in general exceed six feet in height, they are more especially adapted to the smaller kinds of fruit trees, and dwarfs.

The most convenient mode of constructing a trellis to train the branches upon, is to provide a number of poles or stakes of uniform length, and drive them into the ground in an upright position, a foot or two asunder, preserving them at equal distances by nailing a lath along the top. Three or four laths nailed at different heights would render them still more firm. In order that the trellis may not be exposed to the weather an unnecessary length of time, it should not be made until three or four years after the trees are transplanted, and during this time the proper direction may be given to the young branches by fastening them to a stake driven on each side of the tree. By thus deferring the construction of the trellis, it will not be liable to decay before the extended branches become large enough to retain their position without fastening or support. As the branches are to be trained horizontally at regular distances from each other, lateral ones are to be left a few inches apart from near to the ground to the top of the tree. These branches should be extended as straight as possible to their full length, and the most vigorous and thrifty only left for this purpose, the rest being trimmed off.

Fuel.

Among farmers it is a very common practice to have their fuel, where fire places are used, chopped ready for burning, in the woods; and when intended for the stove, it is in the same place cut into three or four feet wood, as the case may be, and then at the house sawn into proper lengths for burning. Wood, in many parts of our country, is already an important article, and is rapidly becoming so in all, since most of our land holders and farmers are more anxious to destroy trees than to plant them, appearing to be equally insensible to their beauty and their value. In this state of things is it not a decided waste of means, for a farmer to get his wood in the manner above described? We think it is—and though reasons plenty as blackberries might be adduced, we shall content ourselves with one. In cutting wood, when on a tree of two feet in diameter, the chopper, if he understands his business, will, at commencing on a log, take out a chip, or calf as it is called, of from sixteen to eighteen inches in length. This, where the logs are cut of the average length of three feet, will cut up into chips at least one fourth of the wood, and these in most cases are left where they fall, to rot. Now every housewife knows, that when wood is drawn in what is called sled lengths, or logs of twelve feet, and these are cut up in the wood yard of the house, that the chips furnish a very valuable and convenient part of the fire wood; and every farmer knows, that though when cut in this way many chips will be fine and unfit for burning, yet they are far from being lost, quickly rotting when scraped into heaps, and when drawn and spread upon his land furnish manure of a most valuable kind. That the farmer should get his year's supply of wood in the winter there can be no doubt. It can then be much easier drawn, his teams have then little else to do, labor can be procured at a cheaper rate, and what is more than all the rest, wood when drawn and cut fit for use in the winter, is far more valuable than when cut in the summer, when the resinous juices of the tree are dissolved in the sap, or employed in the formation of leaves. Another thing in getting wood should not be forgotten—if in the winter, only wood is got to last till winter comes again, green must necessarily be used during the cold weather, at a very great loss of fuel, and expenditure of comfort. On the first day of March, there should be fuel enough in the wood-house or yard, to furnish an ample supply until that day comes round again; and then farmers would complain less of cold houses and chilled fingers, and the industrious house-wife feel less temptation to lecture her spouse on the evils of green wood and smoky chimneys.—*lb.* G.

Agricultural.

From the New England Farmer.
Topping Corn.

MR. FESSENDEN:—Notwithstanding the correct theories advanced by yourself and others, and the numerous experiments, proving conclusively that the practice of "topping Indian Corn" (Maize) is injurious, yet it is believed that this practice is still continued generally, altho' discontinued by a large portion of the best farmers in New England. The practice, if injurious, would, in a short period, cause a loss of property, in the aggregate, amounting perhaps to millions. That the corn plant should ever have been selected for mutilation, in preference to other vegetables, seems to be an extraordinary circumstance. In the whole circle of American husbandry, there is no plant of higher utility and value, or which excites greater curiosity and admiration in respect to its beautiful appearance and organic structure. The physiologist cannot explain how the grass grows, or how this plant springs from a decaying seed into being, and performs all its functions: yet science reveals to us certain facts, as well as the modes in which some of its functions are performed. We know that the Author of nature does nothing in vain, either in the animal or vegetable kingdoms; and that He gave to this plant such peculiar constitution and anatomy, that each part or organ is absolutely necessary to bring it to maturity, or complete its perfection.

The abstraction of any part of it is, therefore, opposed to the wise provisions of nature; and, for obvious reasons, checks its growth. It receives a portion of its food and nourishment from the soil, through the medium of the roots, and their sprays, or minute fibres, extending several feet from the stalk or stem, which act as absorbents. But the vegetable fluid, received from the roots and propelled upwards, undergoes several chemical actions before it enters the cob, and before it is finally converted into that peculiar food which the green ear requires. Air is as essential to its growth as heat, and supplies a portion of its nourishment. Indeed, some plants derive their whole nourishment from the air. The wide corn blades, like the leaves of trees, decompose carbonic acid, retaining the carbon, and emitting the oxygen. The blades are, therefore, in some measure, respiratory, and have some slight analogy to the lungs of animals, which retain only that part of the air called oxygen (the vital part) to improve the state of the blood and give it its red color. We may, therefore, safely conclude that the corn-blade is the organ to prepare or elaborate the sap propelled into it from the stem; that from the blade it returns to the pith or pulpy substance of the stalk; that it next enters the cob, after having undergone several stages of improvement: and that before it is finally received into the kernel, it has been "refined and doubly refined," until it constitutes that rich saccharine juice, which is the nutriment of, and gives the sweet flavor to the kernel. We thus perceive the use of the blades, as well as the pith, the latter extending through the whole stalk. This vegetable fluid circulates through the whole length of the stalk, as well as the blades. Whether the sap, after it ascends from the roots into the blades in which it is elaborated, descends to the roots, according to the doctrine which some distinguished phytologists hold in respect to trees and perennial plants, we confess we have strong doubts. But that there is some sort of circulation, must be conceded. It is probable that the juice, after it ascends, may descend into certain bulbous roots as their tops dry and decay.

Although unable, by actual experiment, to confute the theory, we can conceive of no reason whatever why the sap should descend into the roots of annual or perennial plants. "The circulation of the sap," says a learned writer, "is one of the most obscure, though important processes, in the whole vegetable economy." But the fact that it circulates, or flows, or moves through every part of the corn-plant, improving its state, until the final deposit of its richest substance in the kernel, is sufficient to support our main position. If our premises are correct, the conclusion irresistible follows, that cutting off half the stalk with nearly all the blades, while the plant is green and growing, before the ear comes to maturity, must necessarily check its growth. Because a large portion of the organs, essential to complete its perfection, are abstracted. It is disorganized in respect to its natural functions.

One source, whence it derives nourishment, is cut off. The sap from the roots can no longer be elaborated by the blades, and afterwards converted into a richer and sweeter substance. The ear consequently shrinks, the kernel shrivels as it dries; and the result is, as has often been demonstrated by accurate experiments, that by means of the mutilating process, the corn turns out to be not so sweet and palatable for food, less in quantity, and in weight less than there would have been, had nature been permitted, in her own way to bring it to maturity.

Farmers often commence topping the corn so soon as the kernel is glazed over, "begins to turn," while it is "in the milk." This is the period when the ear is in the greatest need of the saccharine juice, when all the parts or organs of the living whole, through which action is evolved, and which reciprocally act and re-act, are developing their energies to produce the desired result, the maturity of the ear. And the several parts or organs of the plant are reciprocally dependent upon each other for the exercise of their respective functions.

Without the top and the farina, which falls from it, the corn would never grow upon the cob. A silky thread grows out of each kernel, and at the precise time when these threads project beyond the husks, when "the corn is in the silk," the farina falls from the top on to the silk, and through the medium of these threads impregnates each kernel. A microscope will disclose a small aperture at the ends of the silk. In this manner, it is well known, that two fields of corn of different kinds, standing at a considerable distance from each other, will intermix when the wind conveys the farina from one field to the other.

The tops and the wide spreading blades have other uses. They serve as a covering to protect the ear and stem from the too intense heat of a burning sun on the one hand, and cold winds on the other. They also derive nourishment from gentle rains and dews; and their umbrageous foliage, by being a partial obstruction to evaporations, tends to prevent the soil from parching or drying up. A medium temperature is thus, in some measure preserved. The genial influence of the solar light upon the plants (without which they would not grow,) is a fact known to all, but is not of easy explanation. This covering affords also a partial protection against the early frosts, to which our Northern climate is subjected. One instance of this I will mention. The last spring I planted about four acres of corn upon a low, argillaceous soil, late in the season. The piece was well manured, but no manure put in the hill. For a long time the plants appeared less promising than those of my neighbors, who put manure in the hill. But when the roots reached the under-sward, and the nutriment equally diffused, the growth of this piece was remarkably rapid. The plants being thick set, and of uncommon height the tops and blades covered nearly the whole surface. The prospect appeared favorable to a yield of 75 bushels to the acre. While other farmers had topped their corn (a practice which I have not adopted,) mine was in vigorous growth, only a small portion being out of danger from frost. In that state, two successive frosts struck it so severely as to kill the tops and blades. But the ears remained green, and to appearance untouched by frost, and the husks did not adhere to the ear as they do when severely frost bitten. My opinion is, that the frost did no greater injury than the knife would have done, had the piece been topped at that time; and also that had I topped it previous to the frost, the effects of the frost would have rendered it valueless, except for fodder.

Some farmers top their corn in order to force it to ripen earlier. They remove the covering to let the rays of the sun have greater effect upon the ears. And some believe, that by this process they can turn the whole current of the juice into the ear. In respect to the last point, our preceding remarks afford a sufficient answer. Experimental knowledge will convince any one, that the corn will ripen earlier in nature's way, than by adopting the mutilating process. The truth is, that we may safely follow nature, but to change her course and improve her laws, is beyond the capacity of man. The great Author of nature created every plant in the vegetable kingdom, perfect in its own kind. It is, therefore, the height of arrogance and folly to attempt to improve upon what is already perfect. While by the mutilating process, we increase the quantity of solar light shed upon the ear, we at the same time diminish the quantity of heat, the latter being per-

haps more necessary to the plant's growth, than mere light. In autumn, at the usual time of topping corn, more light falls upon an isolated tree in the open field, than upon any one tree in a thick grove, or forest. Yet it is true, that the latter tree has more heat than the former. So in a compact, well shaded corn-field, the heat is retained, if not generated, more than it would be by cutting away the umbrageous foliage to let in solar light, thus exposing the denuded stalk to the full force of the cold, searching winds of that season. In the spring season, when the plants are small and tender, there is an abundance of light, but such is the low temperature, and their exposure to the winds, that as a natural consequence they often appear feeble and sickly, and slowly increase in size.

We know of no tree or other plant, whose condition would be improved by cutting off its top, or main branches. Should a tree be entirely stripped of its foliage in midsummer, it would surely decay and probably die. If it bore fruit not fully ripe, the fruit would shrink, and never become palatable. Should the main branches be cut off, its growth would be so stunted, that it would not recover until after several years, if at all. In transplanting trees, young, or of many years' growth,* modern experiments have proved, that mutilating the tops and the roots, at the same time is very destructive to the tree; because the branches through which the sap circulate, are organs just as essential as the roots, to the nourishment of the tree.

Another justification assigned for the practice of topping corn, is to gain a greater supply of fodder for cattle. But the fact is, that the farmer by cutting up his corn at the roots when it has come to maturity, will have a greater quantity of fodder, than he would in the other mode, and he thereby saves much labor. It is admitted, that the stalks cut green, containing more of the saccharine juice, afford sweeter fodder. But if the main object be to raise good corn, that juice should go to nourish the ear.

We could extend our remarks, and adduce other arguments to fortify our main position. But should you deem these cursory remarks worthy of publication, for the purpose of eliciting public inquiry, or engaging the attention of writers more competent than myself to establish the truth of the theory, and to put an end to one of the most unwise and injudicious practices ever adopted in an enlightened community, I shall not regret this humble effort to promote the agricultural interest.

WILLIAM CLAGGETT.

Portsmouth, N. H., Feb. 6, 1836.

* In England, transplanting full grown trees of all kinds is reduced to science, and conducted upon systematic principles. By this process, the parks and pleasure grounds of the wealthy are suddenly ornamented with extensive groves.

From the Concord Freeman.

Turf Ashes.

It is a very common impression among farmers, that the ashes made from a turf fire are good for nothing, and they are therefore thrown away, and what might aid in increasing that gold mine of the farmer, his manure heap, is thoughtlessly wasted. Now, sir, let me tell you my experience in this matter, with some little advice, and if those of your readers who may follow it, do not realize the truth of the old adage, 'a penny saved, is a penny got,' then I am willing that they should turn back to their old ways.

About ten years since I came to live on the place I now own. As there was but little wood attached to the homestead, I thought it would be a matter both of convenience and economy to supply myself with fuel chiefly from my meadow, which was near at hand, and which cut most excellent turf. Having always heard that the ashes was worthless, I should have thrown it away, but as I was one day digging about my trees, I thought I would throw a little of it round each, and covering it with earth from my hoe, I left it to work out its deeds of good or evil. Well, I followed this system in my orchard the season through, and I must say that an orchard never thrived better—so much was this the case, that I was well convinced it must be the effects of manure, and as nothing else had been brought on, I very easily concluded that some fertilizing properties did exist in turf ashes, prejudice to the contrary notwithstanding. From that time to this, ev-

every spring and fall when I have dug round my trees, I have strewn these ashes plentifully about each, and covered them with earth, that the wind should not blow them away—and I must say my faith in their virtue is stronger than ever. In one other way have I made use of them. At the first hoeing (or weeding) of my corn, I apply a handful or two to each hill as fast as I proceed with my rows, and while they nourish and strengthen the young plants, I believe it protects them from the *greyworm*—for I have never had my cornfield so free from that destructive insect, as since my use of these ashes.

As my experience has been spun out into quite a homily already, I shall close by advising my brother farmers who burn this article of fuel, to test its efficacy as a manure. If the result does not substantiate my positions, I will give up my preaching on

ECONOMY.

Lexington, Jan. 18, 1836.

Mechanics' Department.

Improvements in the Iron Manufacture. SMELTING IRON WITH A HOT AIR BLAST.

In France and Scotland, extensive and interesting experiments have been and are making, in regard to employing heated air in the iron furnaces. The reports are so long that we cannot even present them in an abridged form, and must content ourselves with general statements.

The experiments seem to have been uniformly successful; and not only a greater portion of metal produced with less consumption of fuel, but it is of a better quality also. It is also believed, that by this improvement, certain kinds of coal can be employed in the smelting, which would otherwise be unfit for the purpose.

Among the various statements, we give a few, of the comparative advantages of employing cold and hot air in the blast furnace.

At Riouperoux, (France,) the saving in one month's labor, in the manufacture of 17,989 kilogrammes of pig-iron, is stated at \$240 56, the expense of heating the air being deducted.

At the Clyde works, in Scotland, a tabular statement gives an increase of from 6 to 9 tons per day in the quantity of iron manufactured, besides a great economy in the proportion of fuel and flux required to reduce a given quantity of ore. The air is heated to 612°, or above the melting point of lead. It is also found that by this alteration, the work of the blowing machine is also made easier, and that less air is blown into the furnace.

In works in the environs of Manchester, the consumption of coal has been reduced from 6 to 3 1-4 tons, per ton of iron. The expense of heating is 7 cwt. of coal to the ton of iron. The quantity of flux is reduced nearly in the same proportion. We may hereafter be able to give some more particular accounts of this subject, but this must suffice for the present.

ALLOYING IRON WITH COPPER.

The possibility of uniting copper with iron in form of an alloy, has sometimes been denied. The London and Edinburgh Philosopher's Magazine and Journal of Science, contains an account of some interesting experiments on this subject, by David Musket, Esq. His object was to find a material for castings, which should possess the stiffness of cast iron, and also the malleability and strength of wrought iron. He states that the copper ores of England, are principally sulphurets of iron and copper; and commenced his experiments by attempting the joint reduction of the ores of the two metals to a metallic state without separation. After many failures, he states that he succeeded in reducing into malleable metal, the contents of any given sulphuret. There was, however, a very great uncertainty in relation to the strength of the ingot. From his experiments, he infers that pure malleable iron, or that containing the least possible quantity of carbon, will form an alloy with copper, but that when carbon is united with the iron, either in the form of cast iron or steel, it will not form a perfect alloy with copper. He says, however, that in these experiments, when the proportion of iron was greater than 5 or 7 per cent. no chemical union took place. As the result of experiments having for their object, the direct union of copper with iron, he states that pure malleable iron may be united with copper in any proportion, till the quantities are equal. With 50 per cent of iron, the alloy

possesses great strength. An additional quantity of iron increased the hardness, but diminished the strength of the alloy.

If steel is fused with copper in the proportion of 1-20 of the latter, to 19-20 of the former, an ingot is obtained crystalized like cast steel, and resembling it in appearance, but useless for forge purposes, and incapable of receiving an edge.

The affinity of iron to carbon tends to separate the two metals, or at least to prevent a chemical union; hence they cannot be alloyed in a blast furnace in contact with carbonaceous matter, and the union which may be formed in a close crucible can be obtained only in a small way; so that the alloy cannot be used for castings of any considerable weight. He is, however, sanguine that he shall be able to overcome that difficulty by a different system of alloy, in which copper will form an essential ingredient.—*Boston Mechanic.*

Great and Important Invention.

STEAM SUPERCEDED.

Our ingenious townsman, Mr Alexander McGrew, has invented a mode for obtaining and applying power for the purpose of propelling cars upon rail roads, and boats upon canals and rivers, which we deem of the utmost importance, and which, in our opinion, must, sooner or later, in a great measure, supercede the use of steam. The power is derived from condensed air, obtained and applied in a manner so cheap and simple, as to render the expense a matter of little or no consequence. Air used in the manner proposed by Mr McGrew, has advantages over steam in many essential particulars. It is infinitely less liable to explosion, but in case of such an event, its power to do mischief is greatly diminished, because of its being unconnected with boiling water. It is likewise much more safe in consequence of its not involving the slightest danger from fire. Where cars or boats are propelled by steam, there is constantly danger from this source, and numerous instances of immense destruction of life and property have therefore occurred from that element. The annoyance, too, arising from the sparks and smoke of steam cars, is very considerable to the traveller, but will be wholly avoided by the use of condensed air. The great and overwhelming superiority, however, of the use of the latter over the former element, consists in its economy. Air may be condensed and used upon the plan under consideration without scarcely any expense, except that which is incurred in the first instance in preparing the receivers and machinery.

We have witnessed, by the politeness of Mr McGrew, the practical operation of this invention, and we are fully convinced of its entire success. Mr McGrew has exhibited his plan and practical models to several of the most distinguished engineers in the United States, all of whom concur in deeming the invention of the highest possible importance, and declare their belief that it will almost entirely supercede the use of steam.

Cincinnati Whig.

A Chapter on Dying.

A beautiful, imperishable dye is an article which will never come amiss. A great proportion of the dyes which are in use are fading; others corrode the cloth, on account of the vitriol which they contain, and others, good as they may be, are very dear. Vegetable dyes, perhaps always require a mineral mordant, to strengthen and fix the color; but with this aid, colors otherwise volatile are made permanent. Various materials, it is true, require different dyes, and some imbibe colors with difficulty; yet there is no doubt, that with suitable preparations, all articles may be made to receive permanent dyes.

On account of the absence from the lists of patents for new and improved dyes, there is some reason to suppose either that the subject is in a state of repose, or else, which does not appear very probable, that perfection in the art is already attained. Now although we are not much in favor of spending money in useless experiments, and believe that far too much has already been spent in this way, especially in endeavoring to discover principles in mechanics, and in natural philosophy, which never existed, yet we are of opinion that there is much room for useful experimentation on vegetable dyes especially from the productions of our own country. There is no reason to suppose that the natur-

al wealth of our country, in the vegetable kingdom, is fully developed, any more than in the mineral kingdom, in which new and important discoveries are continually increasing our resources.

It is well known to botanists, that there is a kind of grain, (called wild rice,) growing plentifully in marshes, in some parts of our country, which yields more abundantly than any kind of corn which has yet been cultivated. And yet none but birds and Indians have ever made any use of it, although it is a very wholesome and very palatable grain. Why then, in prosecuting our discoveries in regard to the nature and use of plants, which there is reason to believe, have been too much neglected, should we not expect to meet with plants of immense importance in the useful arts, which now grow unregarded and unknown.

There is a species of lichen, growing on trees, of a greenish color, which the country people gather, under the name of moss, which dyes a permanent orange color on wool. It may be gathered by bushels from the oak trees, hanging in bunches from the limbs. Lie or potash, we believe, is used to fix the color. The acid herb called smart weed, or biting knot-grass, is said also to dye a brilliant and unfading yellow. If these dyes are unknown to chemists, we think they ought not to be; and the scientific should not undervalue an important principle, which their science may render five times more valuable, merely because they owe the discovery of it to the ignorant.

It is some time since we read an account of a process for making a blue dye from the stalks of the buck-wheat, by a process so cheap—consisting merely in piling them in heaps till they decay and ferment, and fall into a solid mass—that if valuable, it ought to be known, as certainly little use is now made of the stalks of this plant, which, indeed, is but very little cultivated in this section of the country.

There is one more vegetable color to which we would advert. A gentleman in Canada, it has been said, discovered a scarlet dye, (which if fine and permanent, would certainly be a desideratum,) in the herbage of a certain species of *Galium*, a low insignificant plant, but of which several kinds are very abundant. Unfortunately, it was unknown what was the particular species. There is reason to believe, however, that there are undiscovered dyes in this family of herbs, as dyes have already been extracted from some kinds of *Galium*, and from madder, which is a plant of the same family.

Singular as it may appear, no simple green vegetable dye has ever been discovered, although green is so universal a color in nature; and hardly a mineral one, except verdigris; and almost all mineral colors are poisonous. Indeed, green is not as was formerly supposed, a primary color, but always composed of blue and yellow; hence it is rather natural to suppose that we should be obliged to form our green dyes by a mixture of blue and yellow.

The bruised leaves of the apple tree, diluted with water, give a yellow ink, probably not permanent alone, though it might possibly be made so. The colors of flowers are extremely evanescent, fading as soon as the plant is dried. The flowers preserved by botanists lose all their bright colors, and turn brown or even black, with a few exceptions. Would it not be worth while to test the colors of those flowers which remain permanent in drying, such as the scarlet columbine, the yellows of the butter cup, potentilla, &c., whether these may not be made permanent after extraction.

Perhaps there is not a more interesting or elegant branch of chemistry than its application to the art of dying. Vegetable chemistry, too, is more difficult than its other branches, on account of the greater difficulty of analyzing the delicate texture of plants. The effect of light upon colors is a most interesting field of observation. Hardly any color resists the effects of long exposure to the direct rays of the sun. What light is, perhaps we can never know; but there is hardly a better proof that it is something substantial, than its chemical action. It is hoped that some one will deem these hints worthy at least of being used as a text for the further consideration of the subject; and for the present, we will dismiss it.

TINCTOR.
Boston Mechanic.

A meeting of master mechanics has been called in St. John's, N. B. for the purpose of taking into

consideration, the framing of a more efficient law, for the regulation of Apprentices: the same to be submitted to the Legislature for their sanction and enactment.

Legislature of Maine.

Tuesday, Feb. 23.

IN SENATE. Bill to establish the Belfast and Quebec Railroad Corporation was read a second time and laid on the table till Friday next.

Bill defining certain rights and duties of railroad corporations was taken up. On motion of Mr Benson, the Senate reconsidered their vote of yesterday adopting that amendment of the House, which gives the corporators power to take land or materials out of the line of the road, by obtaining the consent of the County Commissioners. The amendment was advocated by Mr Severance, and opposed by Messrs. Benson, Merrow, Talbot and Fish, and after some discussion was rejected. Another amendment of the House allowing five rods in width instead of four, for the construction of railroads, was rejected, and the bill then passed to be engrossed.

Resolve requiring the Treasurer to pay the members of the Legislature and distribute the school fund in gold and silver, was taken up, and the amendment offered yesterday by Mr Purinton, adopted. Mr P. then moved to amend by the addition of a clause extending the time for the distribution of the school fund till the 10th of March, to enable the Treasurer to obtain the specie. This was opposed by Messrs. Benson and Johnson, and negatived, 11 to 9. Mr. Purinton then moved to strike out that portion which relates to the distribution of the school fund, which motion prevailed. The resolve then passed to be engrossed, 15 to 7.

HOUSE. The committee on Finance, to whom was referred an order instructing them to inquire if the State Tax could be dispensed with the ensuing year, reported that it could, and ought not to be assessed upon the inhabitants of the State, which report was accepted.

An additional act to regulate Banks by prohibiting the emission and circulation of Bank bills of a small denomination, was taken up.

The House went into a committee of the whole, Mr McIntyre in the chair. Mr Perkins offered an amendment to strike out all after the enacting clause and insert another Bill, which he supported.

Mr Richardson of Portland, followed against the Bill.

Mr Holmes of Alfred, briefly stated the grounds upon which he should oppose the Bill; they were

1st, That it was violating a contract between the State and Banks.

2d, That it encroached upon the authority of the Executive.

3d, That it increased the power of impeachment to a most alarming degree.

4th, That it created an espionage, and rewarded men for violating the law in order to detect others.

Mr Holmes said he had thus stated his grounds in order that the Speaker, who he knew would make the most of his case, and other gentlemen might know and have time to reflect upon them; to-morrow he would resume the subject, and enter into it more fully, and in the view he should take, he should exclude in a great degree all consideration of the expediency of the proposed law.

Mr H. then made some few remarks upon the first point, in relation to the violation of a contract, when on motion of Mr Chadwick the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Wednesday, Feb. 24.

IN SENATE. The committee on State Lands reported leave to withdraw on petition of Moses White. On motion of Mr Benson the report was laid on the table.

The Committee on Railroads and Canals, to whom was recommitted a bill for the alteration of the charter of the Bangor and Oldtown Railroad Company, reported a statement of facts in the case which, together with two remonstrances presented by Mr Fish, of Wm. Emerson et als and Mark Traf-ton et als, was laid on the table.

Passed to be engrossed—Bill to incorporate the Medaceunk Mill Company; the Maine Silk Culture and Manufacturing Company; additional to organize, govern and discipline the militia.

HOUSE. *Finally passed*—Resolve authorizing a

temporary loan in behalf of the State.

The House went into a committee of the whole and resumed the consideration of the proposed small-bill Law. Mr Holmes of Alfred concluded his remarks, and Mr Cilley commenced a reply, when the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Thursday, Feb. 25.

IN SENATE. Bill to abolish imprisonment for debt was reported in a new draft, read once, and 500 copies ordered to be printed.

A communication was received from the Secretary of the Board of Internal Improvements, which was referred to the Committee on Railroads and Canals.

The vote whereby the bill additional to organize, govern and discipline the militia was passed to be engrossed, was reconsidered, and the bill laid on the table.

HOUSE. On motion of Mr. Milliken of Lincolnville, an *Order* passed to appoint a committee to take into consideration what measures shall be taken to prevent the circulation of the Bills of the Bank chartered by the State of Pennsylvania by the name of the *United States Bank*!

On motion of Mr. Hobbs of Eastport, The committee on the Judiciary were instructed to enquire what further process of law, if any, is necessary to regulate the process of foreign attachment.

Friday, Feb. 26.

IN SENATE. Bill to change the name of the town of Milburn was read a second time and laid on the table.

Finally Passed—Resolve making appropriations for the purchase of instruments and the prosecution of surveys, under the direction of the Board of Internal Improvements; to complete the distribution of the school fund of 1835; in favor of Ichabod Bucknam.

HOUSE. Resolve authorizing the Treasurer to pay the members of the Legislature and distribute the school fund in gold and silver, came from the Senate, that body having non-concurred the House in indefinitely postponing, and passed it to be engrossed as amended. The question being upon insisting upon the vote indefinitely postponing, Mr Hamlin opposed and Mr Chadwick spoke in favor, and moved that when the question be taken, it be by yeas and nays, which prevailed. Some further debate then ensued. Messrs. Richardson and Wells were in favor of indefinite postponement, and Messrs. Carpenter, Tobin and Foster opposed.

Mr. Lane moved to amend so as to make the Resolve perpetual, instead of applying merely to the present Legislature, which amendment was adopted.

Mr. Parris moved to postpone further consideration, and that the Resolve lie on the table, which prevailed.

Saturday, Feb. 27.

IN SENATE. Mr. Green from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported legislation inexpedient on the following orders, viz: directing them to inquire into the expediency of amending an act to annex the town of Litchfield to the County of Kennebec &c.—of repealing all laws now in force to restrain the taking of excessive usury—of prohibiting by law the auction sale of the maintenance of paupers by towns—of so altering the law regulating divorces that the wife who has a notorious, drunken, abusive husband, may have the liberty of giving him a bill of divorce, without expense to herself—

of providing by law for obtaining lands for burying grounds without the consent of the owners—of providing by law that no town shall be liable to a prosecution or indictment in consequence of defect in any road, unless notice shall first be given to the selectmen that such road is unsafe—relative to increasing the number of Justices of the Supreme Court—relative to the incorporation of villages—relative to the manner by which persons may effect a change of name—relative to remunerating innocent persons committed for supposed offences; and further legislation unnecessary on an order relative to the expedience of an additional act making private property of stockholders in manufacturing corporations liable for the debts of such corporations. Accepted.

Bill to incorporate the Lincolnville Soapstone and Lime Company was read a second time and laid on the table.

Bill to incorporate the Hancock and Penobscot Railroad Company came from the House amended. Senate concurred & passed the same to be engrossed.

HOUSE. On motion of Mr. Steward of Anson, *Ordered*, That the Committee on State Roads be directed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation to assist in making a Road from the Forks of Kennebec River to Moosehead Lake. *Monday, Feb. 29.*

Bill additional to organize, govern and discipline the militia was taken up. The Senate non-concurred with the House in the adoption of an amendment in the 4th section. Before the question was taken upon the passage of the bill, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE. On motion of Mr. Holmes of Alfred, *Ordered*, That the Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of enlarging the appropriations for internal improvements—also *Ordered*, That the Committee on Rules and Orders be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing that there shall be a Joint Standing Committee on Indian Affairs.

The House went into a Committee of the Whole on the subject of the Bill to prohibit the emission and circulation of small bills, and after continuing in committee for some time, the committee rose and reported the Bill and amended to the House.

On motion of Mr. Humphreys of Gray, the Bill was ordered to be committed to a Joint Select Committee consisting on the part of the House of one from each County.

Summary.

To Correspondents.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. We have received a communication upon this subject from Z. in answer to "Sigma." We are willing to oblige our friends of the alphabet, from A to "Ampersand," and will publish this piece if the author insists upon it, but as the advocates for and against abolition of Capital Punishment, have had a pretty good brush in our columns, we think they had better have an Armistice for a while, at least long enough to take breath for another "tug" by and by.

FROM ENGLAND. By th packet skip Chatham, to this port, London papers to Jan. 20, and Liverpool to the 21st have been received.

Some important appointments had been made.

The new Lord Chancellor, and Master of the Rolls, have been raised to the Peerage, the former by the title of Baron Cottenham, and the latter of Baron Langdale.

The accounts from Paris are to the 18th. The address to the King was voted by the Chamber of Deputies, by a majority of 246 to 47. On the 15th the Minister of Finance laid before the Chamber his exposition of the state of the finances, by which he showed that the revenue was improving.

Mr Humann, Minister of Finance, resigned after he had presented the budget, in consequence of a disagreement between him and his colleagues, in regard to the reduction of the 5 per cents.

The trial of Fieschi was to commence on the 30th.

The accounts from Spain are not important. A further reinforcement of troops had arrived at St. Sebastians, and it was expected they would soon relieve the post from its besiegers.

Accounts from Barcelona are to the 8th. Gen. Mina had arrived there and the place was restored to quiet.

A letter from Bayonne, describes an engagement between the 6th battalion of Navarre, and a column of 2000 Christians, under Gen. Aldama, on the 8th, in which the latter lost 18 killed, and 30 wounded, and the Carlists 10 killed, and 20 wounded.

A chain bridge, over the River Calder, fell suddenly on the 17th, with a tremendous crash. There were upon it at the time, a horse and gig, a wagon and cart, each with 3 horses, and a cart with one horse, which fell with it; no human lives were lost, and only 1 horse was killed. The bridge cost £4000.

Riots.—There were two mobs in New York on Tuesday last, arising from a disagreement as to wages between some laborers and their employers

in the burnt district. A police officer named Brink was seriously injured in the riot. A regiment of Artillery was ordered out on Wednesday in the expectation of further disturbances, but every thing was quiet up to the last accounts.

Fire.—The Dwelling House of John B. Hanson, at Dead River, Upper Mills, was consumed by fire the 2d inst. together with all the house contained excepting two feather beds. The house was burned in the absence of the owner and wife, those who were left to take charge of the house fortunately escaped, but not without being some frozen, as the weather was extremely cold, and they were turned out with any clothes except their sleeping clothes, and were more than half a mile from any other dwelling. The fire took without doubt under the foundation of the chimney, being a timber arch. No insurance.

John Merrick, Esq. of Hallowell has erected the past summer, at his own expense, a neat and commodious meeting-house in Dover, (a very flourishing town in Penobscot County,) which he presented to the Methodist Episcopal Church in that place. The house was dedicated by that Society on the 25th ult.—*Bangor Mechanic & Farmer.*

We learn that the name of Charles Vaughan Esq. should be associated with that of Mr. Merrick, in speaking of the deed of liberality above mentioned. It seems these gentlemen "do good by stealth"—this munificent act has been very unostentatiously performed.—*Hallowell Advocate.*

FROM TEXAS.—We have received, this morning the Telegraph and Texas Register of the 26th Dec. It contains, among other things, a decree of the provisional government calling a convention of delegates from each municipality, clothed with ample powers, to adopt a permanent form of government.

The delegates to be elected by the people, all free white males and Mexicans opposed to a central government being entitled to vote, and the volunteers in the army being entitled to vote by proxy. The whole number of delegates to be 56, and the convention to be held at the town of Washington on the first of March.

The postmaster-general of Texas advertises for proposals to carry the Texas mail on different routes 843 miles, in all.

Texas.—Wm. Wharton, Esq. one of the Commissioners from Texas to the United States, arrived at Nashville, Tennessee, on Tuesday evening, Feb. 2, on his way to Washington. His colleagues, Messrs Austin and Archer, were expected there in a few days. While in New Orleans, the Commissioners, we understand, obtained a loan of \$250,000 for the use of their countrymen, a large portion of which was expended in the purchase of munitions and provisions.

The Savannah Republican of the 29th ult. says—"We are informed by Capt. Miller, of the British schr. Splendid, from Nassau, that all the Texian Volunteers were released just before he sailed, and the brig Matawambeag was taking in water and provisions, to proceed immediately on her passage to Texas. He also informs us that the Captain of the M. has entered a prosecution against the Commander of the British Sloop of War, for \$5000 damages."

RAILROADS IN WINTER. In consequence of the rails being coated with ice, the cars have ceased running for the present on all the Railroads in this vicinity. The Providence Railroad and the Dedham Branch are entirely "unavailable"—and the constant passing of stage-coaches through our village reminds us of old times.—*Nor. Adv.*

Mr. Editor:—Upon reading a paragraph under the head of "Railroads in Winter," the query occurred to my mind, whether the steam, as it is let off in working the engine, might not be discharged upon the rails before the wheels, and thus free them from a coating of ice?—*Correspondent N. E. Far.*

Duelling.—A Bill has been introduced into the Legislature of Louisiana, for the prevention of duels, which contain among others, the following provisions:—This bill guarantees to the creditors of the deceased killed in a duel, a full payment from the friends of the surviving party and right to sue

for the same. In case of injury sustained in body whereby the party is unable to labor for his, or his family's support, or to make good all legal demands incurred before or after said injury, the party injured shall be compelled to support the party injured and his family, and to make good at the hazard of the law's displeasure any demand for the same—shall forfeit to the nearest surviving relative the sum of — thousand dollars, and should they fail to claim for one year, the claim shall be legal in the hand of the next oldest relative. That the evidence of the dying party is good and legal with regard to all claims against himself, and the testimony of his second valid, and placed beyond impeachment, for whatever evidence he may under other circumstances have given. Which bill was read the first time and ordered to be printed.

A letter from Tallahassee, dated the 6th ult., and published in the Albany Argus, gives some interesting facts in relation to the Florida war. Gen. Call's force was to proceed the next week to Tampa, to meet the Louisiana volunteers, and some of the United States troops.—The General then intended to strike into the Indian country, with the view of driving the savages northwardly, or at least cutting off their retreat from the Everglades of South Florida, in the fastness of which the Seminole women and children are now secured, and in which the warriors calculate to make a final stand. The Carolina and Georgia troops, with some of the regular forces, aided by some armed vessels on the St John's River, were to proceed against the nation from the north—with the hope of bringing the war to a close before the hot weather sets in. The fighting force of the Seminoles has heretofore been underrated, and at least 2500 strong; their head chief is *Micanopy*, next to whom is *Jumper Powell*, who is supposed to be their principle chief, and a warrior of great celebrity.

Marriages.

In Hallowell, Mr. David W. Tinkham to Miss Eliza Ann W. Higgins.
In Brunswick, on Sunday evening last, Mr. Lorenzo D. Wyatt to Miss Almira Dennison.
In Gray, Capt. Benjamin Swett, of Bangor, to Miss Hannah F. Morse, of Portland.
In Calais, Mr. Daniel Sherman, of Perry, to Mrs. Nancy Lane, of Calais.

Deaths.

In Orland, 21st ult. Mrs. Rebecca, consort of Hon. John Burnham, member of the Executive Council of Maine, aged 66.
In Calcutta, George A. Sheppard, Esq. merchant, formerly of Aallowell.
At last—Joice Heth is dead! she died on Friday 14th ult. in New York, at a tolerable good old age, having on the 5th ult. reached the age of *One Hundred and Sixty two years!* and "no mistake." She had been ailing for about a week with a cold, and went off in a quiet, tranquil manner, like the glimmering of a light in the socket. She had good nursing and attendance.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—MONDAY Feb. 22, 1836
Reported for the Boston Advertiser.

At Market 565 Beef Cattle, and 880 Sheep.
PRICES.—Beef Cattle—Last week's prices for a like quality were hardly supported. More of the best qualities were at market, consequently a larger number brought our highest quotations. We noticed a few yokes extra taken at 41s 3d, and one yoke or two at something more. We quote first quality at 36s a 39s; second do. at 30s a 34s 6d; third do. 24s a 28s 6d.
Sheep.—We notice sales as follows; several lots were selected, and several entire, viz.: 24s, 30s, 33s 36s, a 39s and 42s.
Swine.—None at market.

Hallowell Female High School.

MISS PAINE and MISS WEBB will commence their Spring Term, on the first Monday in April next.
Spanish, French, and Mezzotinto Shading taught.
Hallowell, Feb. 18, 1836.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the subscriber has been duly appointed Executor of the last will and testament of Samuel Shaw, late of Winthrop, in the County of Kennebec, deceased, testate, and has undertaken that trust by giving bond as the law directs:—All persons therefore, having demands against the estate of said deceased, are desired to exhibit the same for settlement; and all indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to **SAMUEL B. SHAW, Administrator.**
Winthrop, Dec. 28th, 1835.

Notice.

The Copartnership existing between the subscribers is this day by mutual consent dissolved. All persons indebted to the firm are requested to make payment to Daniel Carr, and those having demands against the firm to present them to him for settlement.
DANIEL CARR,
JOHN R. SHAW.

Winthrop, Feb. 24, 1836.

Leavitt's Rheumatic Liniment.

This Liniment has been in private use for three years, and has never failed of affording relief wherever it has been used, which fact has induced the proprietor to offer it for sale.

All he has to say in favor of it, has been said in the above paragraph, and he now offers it to the public for what it is, in and of itself. If it is of utility, it will stand without recommendation; if not, they will not impart healing virtues.

The above may be obtained of his authorized Agents, by the dozen or single, or of him at the Store of **EUSTIS & LEAVITT, Dixfield, Me.** and of Traders generally.

Agents.—William C. Mitchell & Co. Corner of Union & Middle Streets, Portland, Maine. Pratt & King, 28, India Street, head of Central Wharf, Boston, Mass. **C. LEAVITT, Jr. Proprietor.**
For Sale by **DAVID STANLEY, Winthrop.**

Monmouth Academy.

The spring term of this Institution, under the care of Mr. Whitmore, its present able and successful Preceptor, will commence the 1st Monday in March. The course of instruction will embrace all the branches of education usually taught in well regulated Academies—and the French and Spanish Languages. There is connected with the Institution a small Chemical and Astronomical Apparatus, and Lectures on these sciences may be expected as often as circumstances will permit. The morals and manners of the Students will be carefully attended to.

Mr. Whitmore has fully answered the expectations of the Trustees—and the approbation of the public has been manifested by a liberal share of patronage. The Trustees hoping to continue this patronage, would recommend Mr. W. as being a gentleman of superior talents and eminently qualified to discharge the duties of his situation.

Board may be obtained on reasonable terms.
NEHEMIAH PIERCE, Sec'y.
February 13, 1836.

Take Notice.

The account book of **GEORGE W. STANLEY, Esq.** wherein the charges for the use of his Stud Horses from the year 1828 to 1834 are made, are lodged in the office of the subscriber for collection—And all persons who are indebted thereon are hereby notified that if their accounts are settled within sixty days from this date, *no cost will be taxed to them*, but all persons who neglect this opportunity to pay until after that time may expect to be sued without mercy.
SETH MAY.
February, 25th, 1831.

Plaster Paris, &c.

The subscriber has on hand 1000 Casks Ground Plaster Paris of superior quality. Great pains having been taken by an experienced person in selecting the Plaster for the Lubec Manufacturing Company. Also 3000 bushels Liverpool SALT—20 hogsheads retailing Molasses—Fish—Tar—Rosin. Together with a general assortment of West India Goods, which will be sold low for cash, country produce or approved credit.

ALEX. H. HOWARD.
Hallowell, Dec. 12, 1835. 3m46

SUBSCRIBERS TO THE FARMER can have their vols. bound by leaving them at this office

Poetry.

For the Maine Farmer.

Pew Talk and Church Scandal.

That tall young fellow 's here to day!
I wonder what's his name,
His eyes are fixed on our pew—
Do look at Sally Dame.

Who is that Lady dressed in green?
It can't be Mrs. Leach—
There's Mr. Jones with Deacon Giles,
I wonder if he'll preach.

Lend me your fan—it is so warm,
We both will sit at prayers,
Mourning becomes the widow Ames—
How Mary's bonnet flares.

Do look at Nancy Sloper's vail,
It's full a breadth too wide—
I wonder if Susanna Ayers
Appears to day as bride.

Lord what a voice Jane B. has got—
Oh! how that organ roars—
I'm glad we've left the singing-seats—
How hard Miss Thompson snores

What ugly shawls are those in front?
Did you observe Ann Wild?
Her new straw bonnet's trimmed with black,
I guess she has lost a child.

I am half asleep—that Mr. J.
His sermons are so long—
This afternoon we'll stay at home,
And practice that new song.

C.

Miscellany.

Considerations for Young Men.

LETTER XI.

Wealth not only adds to the influence of its possessor, but gives him the means of gratification. In a country like ours, where property is sought with so much avidity, and secures to an individual so many advantages, it is not a matter of astonishment that many embark with high hopes of future opulence. Nor is it, considering the general prosperity of the land, at all surprising that they realize their anticipations.

We are aware that the desire of wealth increases, with the acquisition, and that the amount of property upon which the eye at first rested as the ultimate boundary of hope, becomes, when attained, but the starting point of another and more eager pursuit.—So craving and yet so unsatisfied, is the votary of Mammon!

The reputation of learning and the honors of state, requiring more talent in the pursuit, and holding out less probability of success, engage the attention, and weaken the anticipations of comparatively few. Still there is a large class of young men, who, from the favorable opportunities which mark the period of their minority, or from a superior force of mind acting against the impediments which embarrass them, fix their restless desires on the proudest pinnacle of earthly glory. The thirst for distinction in its earliest development, appears in the domineering spirit of boyhood, which will act in no capacity but that of leader in childish sports. It must venture one step farther on the precipice than any of its compeers. It must hurl the stone one foot beyond the point which the efforts of his antagonist has reached. It must even, by its acknowledged prowess enforce submission, as the little tyrant, whose will gives the law, and whose arm administers punishment to the disobedient. The same indomitable spirit looks out upon life's scenes, and pants to supplant those in power, and to usurp, if possible the dominion of the world. With this motive, acting like a lever to the mind's energies, the ambitious will toil in the study, breast themselves to danger in the field, and travel among polar snows, or scorching deserts. If they cannot reach the sceptre, they will bound their views only by the regions of possibility. They may not, at first, have suspected the ultimate strength of this passion. As circumstances develop, as in their ascent to fame one impediment after another gives way before their untiring and resistless struggles, they begin to find that ambition knows no limit, and acknowledges no superior.

It is this principle that often seats the student at the midnight lamp, that sustains the soldier amid the stormy conflict, and animates the statesman in the hall of debate. It is this which infuses energy into the mind, and gives eloquence to the tongue. It is, however, a hypocritical principle. It often calls itself patriotism when it is nothing but the desires of office. It often claims the character of a benefactor, when it deserves only that of pride. It frequently passes for disinterestedness, when it should be denominated supreme selfishness. Still it is a principle which, by the control of Him who brings good out of evil, operates very often to the advantage of society, and in the absence of a nobler motive, becomes a spring to industry, and a promoter of the public good.

I do not pass sentence upon all who are engaged in the pursuit of honor. I would not attribute to distinguished fellow-citizens, universally, the grovelling motive of personal ambition. I believe that a loftier principle beats in many a heart, and that the name of patriot is not an empty sound. I will not admit that to ambition alone we are indebted for the tones of science which adorn our libraries, for the temple of freedom which graces our land, or the principles of liberty which breathe in our constitution. There is more than one name, hallowed in our recollections, upon which suspicion cannot fall. There is at least one patriot whose motives might safely be imitated, and whose fallen mantle no successor has been warranted in assuming.

Do not understand me as wishing to undervalue the pursuits of honorable distinction. I would not take from your bosom one spark of enthusiasm, nor curtain the pinnacle of earthly glory with clouds. I would only give to that enthusiasm a right direction, and bid you go forward with expectations that may not be disappointed, and with motives which shall make your success doubly delightful. It is natural that you should wish to become honored and respected. I cannot suppose you indifferent to reputation. But let not your expectations on this topic be immoderate. There are, and I would urge you to remember it, rewards and distinctions which far outweigh the brightest honors of earth. Be not then so absorbed in the pursuit of fame as to overlook 'the honor which cometh from God.' The one is, in its very nature, unsatisfying—the other calms and elevates the soul.—The one must be relinquished almost as soon as obtained—the other follows its possessor beyond the limits of time, and grows brighter and more blissful as the ages of eternity revolve. If you disregard the honor that cometh from God, and become absorbed in that which ambition proffers, you 'put darkness for light, and light for darkness.' You make an estimate of things calculated to deceive you on earth, and ruin you forever.

Whilst earthly renown is not to be despised, whilst it may be irreproachably sought and obtained, it will, as you must soon admit, soon pass away. The chaplet has scarcely touched the temples of the warrior, ere it is exchanged for the habiliement of the grave. While the shout & acclamation ring on the ear of the successful candidate for civil promotion, and swell his exulting heart, that ear becomes insensible, and that heart ceases to beat. He, who but lately shone ascendant among Britain's luminaries, whose voice swayed her councils, whose wisdom directed her plans, who was the first of statesmen, and the most eloquent of orators,* he felt how slippery is the steep of fame. No sooner had his foot pressed her loftiest peak, than he reeled from the dizzy height, and, falling into the shades of death, left as another illustration of the vanity of earthly honors.

O that you would fix your aim upon a higher, an imperishable reward! Be persuaded to estimate the things of earth by record which has written vanity of vanities upon her brightest treasures.

* Canning.

To the Wool Growers.

100 lbs. of WOOL TWINE just received and for sale by
JOS. G. MOODY.
Augusta, January 15, 1836.

Notice.

The subscribers are about bringing their business to a close in this town, request all persons indebted to them to call and settle immediately.
FOGG & SYLVESTER.
Winthrop, Feb'y 9, 1836.

American Magazine
of Useful and entertaining Knowledge.
VOL. II.

Published by the Boston Beuwick Company—
No. 47, Court Street.

THE Publishers are encouraged by the flattering reception and extensive circulation of the Magazine for the year past, to prosecute it with renewed assiduity; and with a constant desire to fulfil the promises made in the outset of the work. We intend "to stick to our text;" and to serve those who have so liberally cheered us with their kind patronage, with what is useful and pleasant. The UTILE ET DULCE shall still be our aim and object. We do not presume to instruct the veteran and erudite scholar, who has spent thirty or forty years in his study,—nor to lay open those hidden mysteries of nature which have escaped the ken of the most inquisitive. Nor do we expect to approach so near to the moon or other planets, as to tell what are the trees, the birds, and animals which may there grow, or live and move. We leave such extraordinary feats to those who are more visionary or more daring than we are. But we hope and intend to keep up the character and spirit of the Magazine, in presenting solid and useful articles, which may be instructive to a portion of readers, and not considered wholly unimportant to literary men. We consider the whole United States as our field, though not ours exclusively; and we ask the favor of persons of taste and science, to communicate important facts, and natural scenes, and words of art, for the benefit of all our friends. As republicans, we feel that we are of the same family as those in the south and in the west—as friends of improvement, of good morals and good learning, we wish also to be considered of the same family. If we can do any thing by our labors to increase and strengthen this sentiment and feeling, "we shall be ready to the good work."

We would call the attention of our present subscribers to the terms of the Magazine, and to the notice in the last number relating to the subject. It is very important to us to know who propose to continue taking the Magazine, and to receive the very small sum, (\$2.) charged for its advance.

All letters and communications from Agents and others MUST BE POST PAID.

The Postage on this Magazine as established by law, is 4 1-2 cts for 100 miles—any distance over, 7 1-2 cts.

GEORGE G. SMITH, Agent.
Boston, September, 1835.

Celebrated Horse Powder.

THE various diseases to which the HORSE is subject, have occasioned many remedies to be offered to the public, under different forms with high ecomiums. Some of these are injurious,—others at best, of little use. A judicious and useful combination has long been desired. This is recommended in the following cases:

For Horses foundered by eating to excess, or drinking cold water when warm, to such as discover any symptoms of Glanders, the Distemper, Cough, and Yellow Water, or are exposed to infection by being with other Horses affected with these complaints, and in all cases attended with feverish symptoms, sluggishness, loss of appetite or depression of spirits.

The dose for a sick Horse is one table-spoonful night and morning, mixed with a light mess of short feed, or made into a drench: when intended to keep a Horse in health, a table-spoonful once a week will be sufficient, and at the same time a table-spoonful of Salts in his food.

Prepared and sold by JAMES BOWMAN,
GARDINER, Maine.

We the undersigned having examined the Recipe for making the Horse Powder prepared by James Bowman of Gardiner, Me., do not hesitate to say it is a scientific combination, and from experience and observation we are persuaded to say that it is a good preparation for many diseases of Horses for which it is recommended.

D. NEAL,

D. H. MIRICK.

We the subscribers having made use of the Horse Powders prepared by James Bowman, Gardiner, Maine, most cheerfully recommend them to the public for Distemper and Coughs.

CHARLES SAGER, } Gardiner.
A. T. PERKINS, }
J. D. GARDINER, }
SAMUEL HODGDON, } Pittston.
BENJ. HODGES, } Augusta.
JOHN H. ELDRIDGE }

— ALSO —

THE Genuine "ROLLINS' IMPROVED LINIMENT" for Horses and Oxen, and even for Persons afflicted with Rheumatism, Strains, Sprains or chilblains—it is not second to any other Liniment, British Oil or Opodeldoc now in use. *tf.*